one *kotta*, while, under the new arrangement, they were required to pay the *Sripandara-vagai* dues at the rate of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*, per para of 800 cubic inches as the equivalent of a *kotta* of paddy. In other words, they had to pay more under the new arrangement, which virtually meant a raising of the dues. The Member said that the Government also incurred loss by the new arrangement, as they had to pay the dues to certain Devaswoms at the new equivalent.

He said that the rate of 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* fixed by the Government for the realisation of the Sirkar tax was also not fair as the real equivaleut of a *kotta* was only 7 *paras* and $3\frac{3}{4}$ *edangalies*. Comparing the assessment on an acre of first class land at Nanjanad and at Edanad, the Member said that the assessment in Nanjanad was Rs. 5 more than that at Edanad and that the inequality was the result of fixing 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* as the equivalent of *kotta* in Nanjanad. The grievances of the ryots had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly but no adequate relief had been granted as yet.

The Member prayed that the real capacity of the Nanjanad *marakkal* and the quantity of paddy for a *kotta* of 21 *marakkals* be ascertained correctly and fixed in terms of *paras* and *edangalies* and that a new and reasonable measure for the *marakkal* be introduced in Nanjanad.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. Extension of the Railway to Cape Comorin.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) in urging the need for the extension of train service to Cape Comorin suggested that a limited Company might be formed with the Special Officer, Industrial Survey, as President and the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, as Secretary, the Government taking shares up to a maximum of half the total number. The value of each share was to be Rs. 15. If Government doubted the utility of the line proposed and of its financial success, a Committee of official and non-official gentlemen might be appointed to investigate the subject.

Mr. Ponniah Nadar (Member, Nominated) said that the extension of the Railway from Trivandrum to the Cape was greatly wished for by the people of Nanjanad. Though the main work could not be taken up owing to the financial stress caused by the war, yet, all preliminary operations such as surveying, levelling, etc., could be finished for the present, so that the work of construction of the line might be commenced soon after the war.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

148. Suggestions for the amelioration of the present condition of Mahomedans.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) urged the need for the following:—

(1) the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of schools;
(2) the employment of Mahomedan teachers in schools;
(3) the award of not less than 15 scholarships to Mahomedan boys for spreading English education of the High School grade and 3 scholarships for Collegiate education;

(4) the adequate representation of Mahomedans in the Public Service and the better encouragement of those already in the service;

(5) the admission of Mahomedan students in the Caste Hindu Hostel;

(6) the appointment of a member of the community to the Legislative Council;

(7) the increase of the number of Mahomedan Members in the Assembly from 4 to 8;and

(8) the recognition of the following Mahomedan holidays as general holidays, *viz.*, (*a*) *Bar-wafat* (*b*) *Ramzan* (*c*) *Bak-rid* and (*d*) *Moharam 10th*.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dewan's reply.—The appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of Schools has been under the consideration of Government. The delay is due to the fact that a suitable Mahomedan gentleman with the requisite qualifications and experience of Mahomedan schools has not been found yet.

As for the entertainment of Mahomedans in the Public Service, there are at present 473 Mahomedans in the service, including 67 Mahomedans employed in the Education Department.

The other suggestions will receive consideration.

149. Social disabilities of Ezhavas.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) objected to the observance of *theendal* and of the disabilities which followed it and requested that a proclamation be issued announcing the total abolition of *theendal*. His next prayer was that sign boards prohibiting the *theendal* castes from using certain roads and lanes should be removed. In regard to the admission to schools, there were some still, which ought to be thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that Government orders in regard to the employment of members of his community in the Public Service should be enforced and that quarterly returns of such appointments be called for from the Heads of Departments.

Dewan's reply.—The number of Ezhavas in the State Service is 476, of whom 24 are in the Excise Department, 33 in the Police, 202 in the Educational and 27 in the Medical Departments. The policy of Government is to employ Ezhavas freely provided they are qualified under the rules. The requests of the Member are noted.

150. Social disabilities of the depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) brought to notice the social disabilities of the depressed classes, and submitted that they could not use the roads except on pain of ill-treatment at the hands of other communities. Their children could not get admission into schools without the assistance of the Police. They could not approach hospitals, temples or other institutions. Their grievances could not be represented in person to the higher officers. The Government should, therefore, step in and remove their disabilities. The Member prayed that a Committee of enlightened Hindu gentlemen should be appointed to do the work of enlisting the sympathy of the people at large towards the uplift of the depressed classes. He also submitted that the Pulayas and Parayas and some other backward classes were not on the same level with the Jews and Mahomedans whose material condition was considerably better and that a more liberal policy should be shown towards the former in the matter of fee concession and scholarships.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Need for a special enactment to safeguard the welfare of Parayas.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) requested that, if separate legislation was not possible, special steps should be taken to raise the Parayas from their depressed condition. They were grateful for the encouragement given of late in the matter of education. The Member then requested that, as there were no departmental or private schools in Kalluppara and its neighbourhood where a large portion of Parayas and Pulayas lived, the Government be pleased to start a school which would be of use to Mahomedans also.

He also represented that they suffered much at the hands of the subordinate staff. They were not being allowed to attend courts and public offices.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly